

Born in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, it was apparent from very early on that Dr. Johnson was driven to succeed. The local schools only offered classes to African Americans through the eighth grade, so Dr. Johnson's father enrolled her and her siblings in a school 125 miles from their home. Taking full advantage of this educational opportunity, Dr. Johnson graduated high school at the age of 14. Dr. Johnson then went on to study at West Virginia State College, now West Virginia University. In 1937 at the age of 18, she graduated Summa Cum Laude with majors in Mathematics and French. She continued her education at West Virginia University with further studies in Mathematics and Physics.

Dr. Johnson began her career in education as a teacher, a job that she held for seven years. She eventually relocated to Newport News where, in 1953, Dr. Johnson began her work at the NASA Langley Research Center, where she would go on to have a great impact on studies relating to various projects over the course of her career.

When hired in 1953, like almost all women at NASA, Dr. Johnson was hired to perform technical calculations. Women of African American heritage were typically assigned to all black "computer pools." Within weeks of her entry in the NASA ranks, Dr. Johnson was asked to temporarily assist in the Spacecraft Dynamics Branch in the Flight Dynamics and Control Division. She never returned to her "computer pool."

Dr. Johnson went on to help calculate the trajectories flown by the 1969 Apollo spacecraft that landed on the moon and to coauthor 21 NASA reports and professional conference papers at a time when those who performed calculations were typically not named as participants. According to Dr. Johnson, even after computers began to be used to calculate the orbits of Mercury capsules, John Glenn called on her to verify the computers' calculations.

Throughout the course of her career, Dr. Johnson has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the NASA Lunar Orbiter Achievement Award, the NASA Apollo Team Group Achievement Award, three NASA Special Achievement Awards, an honorary Doctorate of Laws from the State University of New York, honorary Doctor of Science degrees from Capitol College and Old Dominion University, and she was honored by the National Technical Association as "Mathematician of the Year" in 1997.

Dr. Johnson has also been featured in various "Who's Who" lists throughout her career. She has been honored in the Philadelphia Electric Company's Exhibit honoring 24 black inventors and scientists at the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, the Department of Energy's "Black Contributor's to Science and Energy Technology" list, and Time Life's Series entitled African-Americans: Voices in Triumph Leadership Volume.

A member and leader of many organizations, Dr. Johnson has served as Treasurer of the National Technical Association both on the local and national level, as President of the of the Lambda Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and as a Trustee and Elder at Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia, where she continues to be a dedicated member.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize and commend Dr. Katherine Goble Johnson today for her service to the United

States, to her community, and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

#### IN HONOR OF MARY TENCH

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mary Tench as her family and friends gather in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Mary was born on December 7, 1911 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Charles and Anna Zacharzuk. Charles and Anna had six children: Mary, Pauline, Alex, John, Pete and Joe. Mary's youngest brother, Joe, lives in Tennessee and is her only living sibling.

When Mary was thirteen years old, her parents moved the family to Bedford, Ohio. As young girl, Mary met her neighbor and future husband, James A. Tench. During their courtship, James took Mary to dances and picnics with his Hungarian dance group. They were married in February 1928 and went on to raise eight children: MaryAnn, Emory, Edward, Theodore, Rozella, Alex, Gerald and their stepson, John. In 1948, James and Mary purchased their first house located at 7634 Finney Avenue in Cleveland for \$8,200. Mary lived in this home until 1990 when she moved to Simi Valley, California. In 1998, Mary returned to Cleveland and lived independently until 2009 when she moved in with her daughter, Rozella.

During World War II, Mrs. Tench worked for Parker Hannifin. In the early 1950s she joined the staff of Cleveland Republic Steel Corporation in the executive cafeteria. This job inspired Mary to start her own catering business, Fancy Catering. For 25 years, Mary catered weddings and special events for the US Coast Guard. When James retired from the Cleveland Pneumatic Tool Company in 1975, Mary left the catering business so they could enjoy retirement together. James and Mary celebrated 59 years of marriage before James's death in 1987.

Mrs. Tench is a lifetime member of the VFW. She served as President of Post 3456 and is a current member of Lake Erie Post #1974 in Parma. She also served as President of the Knights of Columbus, Isabella Guild. Mary still belongs to the Women's Catholic Council of Cleveland, the Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Columbus and the Parma Democratic Club where she served as Secretary/Treasurer. She was an elected Precinct Committee Woman, a Presiding Judge for the Board of Elections and worked at the voting polls for over 30 years. Mary volunteered on political campaigns including my 1977 mayoral campaign.

During an interview with her great-granddaughter, Mary told stories of surviving The Great Depression, experiencing many wars and voting for the first time, at the age of 21, for President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. Her hobbies include traveling, crocheting, cooking, playing cards, bingo, reading and going to the Donna Smallwood Activity Center.

Mary's commitment to faith is reflected through her involvement with the Holy Name Parish, her family and her community. GiGi, as she is affectionately called by her family, has 32 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren,

25 great-great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Mary Tench whose life is framed by the love of her family, her faith and the appreciation she has for the life she has lived. I wish Mrs. Tench a joyous 100th year and blessings of peace, health and happiness.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BETH-EL

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 26, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Temple Beth-El in Munster, Indiana, as its congregation joins together in celebration of its 100th Anniversary. To celebrate this Centennial, members will hold a celebratory reception at Temple Beth-El on October 29, 2011.

Truly, Temple Beth-El has had a long and dynamic history in the Calumet Region's Jewish Community. When it was first established in 1911, Temple Beth-El served as a modest Reform Congregation, holding its services in a rented building in Hammond, Indiana. In fact, for a short time after World War One, Temple Beth-El briefly came to share its rental property with fellow Temple, Knesseth Israel. However, in 1925, the Temple was finally able to purchase its own location, the W. B. Conkey Mansion in Hammond, Indiana, where they remained until 1955. The congregation later moved to 6947 Hohmann Avenue, also located in Hammond, where it remained for 41 years. Due to the changing needs of its congregation, the Temple eventually sold its Hammond property to move to Munster, Indiana on August 15, 1999. Conducting a "Torah Walk," they marched their Torahs from their old property in Hammond to their new building at 10001 Columbia Avenue, in Munster, where they are soon to celebrate their rich, hundred-year history. Currently, the members of Temple Beth-El can be proud of a Reform congregation of over 200 households, an ample facility featuring a sanctuary, classrooms, a kitchen, and library, as well as an admirable dedication to community service programs, in which members passionately serve those in need throughout the community. Additionally, Temple Beth-El recently helped to sponsor the inspirational exhibit, "A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs, 1910-1965," which was on display at the Munster Center for Visual and Performing Arts until October 20, 2011, and will be visiting 55 sites throughout the United States in 2011 and 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Temple Beth-El of Munster, Indiana, on its 100th Anniversary. Through the years, the members of Temple Beth-El have dedicated themselves to preserving the traditions and spiritual beliefs of Reform Judaism. For their dedicated service, and for touching the lives of countless individuals, they are worthy of our highest praise.